

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00722 311200Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6521
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0722

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW
SUBJECT: SPANGENBERG ON CURRENT BERLIN TOPICS

AT MONTHLY MEETING WITH ALLIED MINISTERS 30 MARCH, FRG
PLENIPOTENTIARY SPANGENBERG MENTIONED FOLLOWING ITEMS
OF SOME INTEREST:

(A) TRANSIT PAUSCHAL. WHILE FINAL ARRANGEMENT NOT YET
REACHED, LIKELY FRG TACTIC IN DEALING WITH THIS ONE WILL
BE TO OFFER GDR ITS CHOICE OF TWO CHECKS. ONE FOR
SMALLER AMOUNT (BY DM 45 MILLION, SPANGENBERG SAID)
WOULD LEAVE FUTURE METHOD OF TRAFFIC COUNTING OPEN.
ONE FOR LARGER AMOUNT WOULD BE GIVEN ONLY IF GDR AGREED
TO USE FRG-PREFERRED METHOD IN FUTURE.

(B) WATERWAYS. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH GAUS, MEISSNER
OF VERKEHRSMINISTERIUM SUGGESTED LUMP-SUM APPROACH TO
QUESTION OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ALL WATERWAYS
TO WEST BERLIN. BALLPARK FIGURE OF DM 700-750 MILLION
TO BE PAID BY FRG WAS SUGGESTED. MEISSNER SAID ALTERNA-
TIVE IS INCREASE IN BARGE TRANSIT CHARGES, AND IF FRG
DOESN'T CARE FOR EITHER OF THEM, IT IS ALWAYS FREE TO
SEND GOODS TO WEST BERLIN BY ROAD OR RAIL.

(C) SCHMIDT-STOBBE INVITATION TO PARTY. PSANGENBERG
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WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE WOULD BE ANY ALLIED OBJECTION
TO A JOINT SCHMIDT-STOBBE INVITATION TO A SOCIAL EVENT
ON 19 MAY TO KICK OFF THE BERLIN MUSIC FEST. NEITHER THE
BRITISH NOR AMERICAN MINISTER AHD PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF
PROJECT, BUT SAID WE COULDN'T OFFHAND SEE ANYTHING WRONG
WITH IT, ALTHOUGH SOME EASTERN INVITEES WOULD DOUBTLESS
NOT ATTEND. FRNCH MINISTER MADE SOME CLUCKING NOISES,

AND TOLD US AFTER SPANGENBERG LEFT THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAD
RAISED SUBJECT RECENTLY WITH FRENCH EMBASSY IN BONN, WHICH
WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC.

(D) POSSIBLE INCREASE IN AIR SUBSIDIES. WILL BE REPORTED
IN SEPTTEL. GEORGE

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